

***Sanicula arctopoides* H. & A.**

bear's foot sanicle

Apiaceae (Parsley Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Low tap-rooted perennial, found near salt water; stems much branched at the base into prostrate or ascending branches 5 to 30 cm (2 to 12 in) long; involucre conspicuous, generally larger than the heads; leaves somewhat succulent, often yellowish; basal leaves rosette forming and broadly petioled, blade cleft into three segments that are irregularly toothed or cleft and with softly bristle-tipped teeth; stem leaves reduced, sessile, and opposite; flowers generally pedicellate, inflorescence of several compact head-like ultimate umbels bearing yellow flowers and 8 to 17 prominent bractlets; calyx teeth well developed, generally connate at least at the base; stylopodium flattened and disk like, or wanting; fruits oblong-ovoid to globose, somewhat compressed laterally, beset with prickles or tubercles, ribs of fruit generally obsolete.

Identification Tips: *Sanicula arctopoides* can be distinguished from other species in the genus by having a conspicuous involucre. Additionally, plants are maritime and prostrate or ascending rather than erect.

Phenology: The species flowers from March through May.

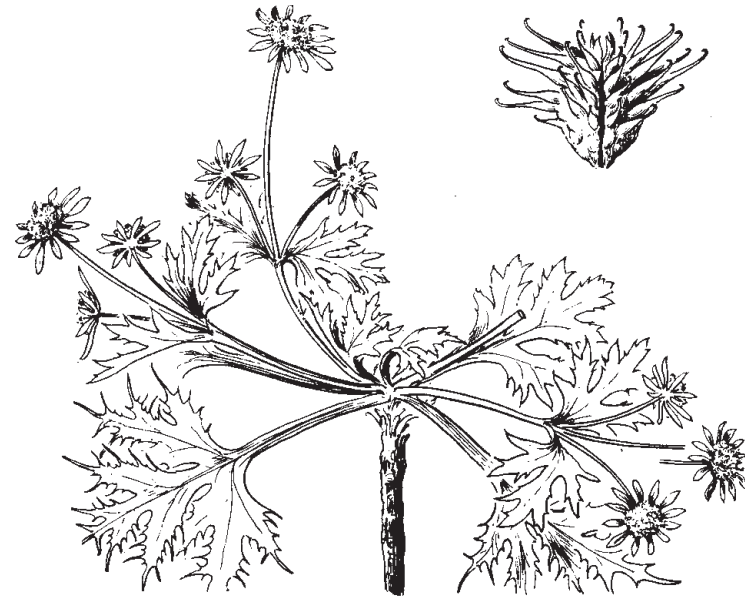
Range: The species ranges in distribution from the southern tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, south to Santa Barbara County, California. *Sanicula arctopoides* is scattered in Washington, occurring in Pacific County and historically in Grays Harbor County.

Habitat: *Sanicula arctopoides* grows in coastal bluffs and grassy sand dunes. Associated species in Washington include bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), wild rose (*Rosa* spp.), and chocolate lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*).

Ecology: The species is presumably able to withstand a certain amount of disturbance, given its occurrence within areas that are regularly mowed. *Sanicula arctopoides* sometimes occurs within dune ecosystems that are undergoing rapid succession, a process that eliminates habitat of the sanicle. Shrub species and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) continue to encroach into areas inhabited by *S. arctopoides*.

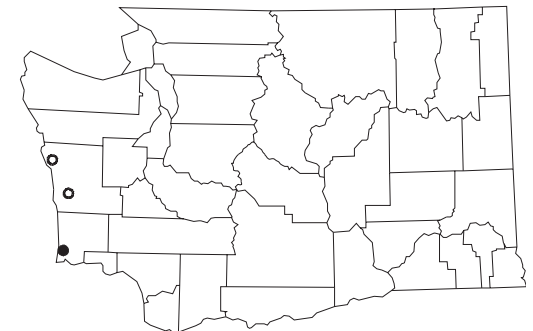
Sanicula arctopoides

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Known distribution of
Sanicula arctopoides
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Linda Kunze

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State Status Comments: The limited range of the taxon in Washington and the potential for incompatible land use practices contribute to the species' sensitive status.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed.

Threats and Management Concerns: Residential development, alteration in current site maintenance procedures, use of off-road vehicles, application of herbicides, and natural succession patterns of dune ecosystems threaten this species.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.



Photo by Linda Kunze